THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The information in being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Violation of Human Rights by Armed Forces

3838. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of army personnel who have been punished in connection with Human Rights violation in Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years;

(b) the details thereof; and

(c) whether any compensation have been given to the families of the victims?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The following number of army personnel have been punished in J&K in the last 3 years for human rights violation cases:—

Year	Officers	JCOs	ORs	Total
1995	2	1	4	7
1996	4	—	2	6
1997	—	—	4	4
1998	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	6	1	10	17

(c) No compensation has been paid to the victims in these cases.

Private sector participation in strategic sector

3839. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item "Government-industry-defence cooperation envisaged" in the Statesman, dated 19th June, 1998;

(b) if so, whether Government are opting for private sector participation in strategic sector also;

(c) whether Government have taken into consideration idle capacity of Defence and non-Defence PSUs (including the sick industries) before going for private sector participation;

(d) if so, the details of the study conducted in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) In order to explore the possibilities of involving private sector in some identified areas of defence production, Defence Minister held interactive discussions with representatives of industry at a section of the Confederation of Indian Industry on 18-6-1998. The focus of these deliberations was aimed at evolving a long term plan of effective Government-industry participation in building a strong, versatile, and self-reliant indigenous defence production base.

While civil industry is already involved in providing inputs to the defence establishments producing defence wares, there is need to elevate the linkages commensurate with the capacities, capabilities and expertise that exists in the private and public sectors of domestic civil industry.

As per the decision taken in the meeting, Government has already set up six Joint Task Forces between the Industry and the Ministry of Defence in furtherance of the objective of expanding Government-industry participation.

Nuclear capability of India and Pakistan

3840. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item published in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 6th July, 1998, captioned "India-Pak do not have

advanced N-devices" says scientists of Washington after analysing seismic data recorded around the world in the wake of May, 1998 underground nuclear tests by India and Pakistan and believe that India "exaggerated the size of their weapons"; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is well known that seismic data alone cannot enable determination of the type of fissile material used in nuclear weapons (or devices). Neither such data can, obviously, enable analysis of "the level of advancement", achieved.

It may be pointed out that Western seismologists, initially, under estimated the yield of the Shakti' 98 tests conducted on 11 May, 1998. Our own estimates indicate that the cumulative yield was 60 KT, with 15 KT being contributed by the fission device and 45KT by the thermo nuclear devices. Of late, Western seismologists, using data from 125 seismic stations have estimated the cumulative yield from the May 11 tests at about 60KT which is close to our estimate.

Indo-US defence relations

3841. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. Defence Secretary has invited the Defence Minister to explore the outlook for bilateral relationship; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Raksha Mantri received an invitation in early May, 1998 from the US Secretary of Defence to visit the United States of America at a mutually convenient time. No dates for the visit have been finalised.

Recruitments in Navy and Air Force in Kerala

3842. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the recruitment to the Navy and Air Force is taking place in Kerala; and

(b) whether Government will open recruitment centre of Navy and Air Force in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Naval and Air Force Recruitment Centres already exist at Kochi in Kerala.

सैनिक बेड़े का आधुनिकीकरण

3843. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव:** क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने निजी क्षेत्र की भागीदारी से देश के सैनिक बेड़े और तीनों सेवाओं को आधुनिक बनाने की कोई योजना बनाई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) इस उद्यम हेतु कितनी निजी कम्पनियां आगे आई हैं और इस संबंध में क्या-क्या निबंधन और शर्तें निर्धारित की गई है;

(घ) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान देश में इस उद्यम हेतु कुल कितनी राशि स्वीकृत की गई और उक्त अवधि के दौरान कुल कितनी राशि का उपयोग किया गया; और

(ङ) सरकार द्वारा चालू वित्तीय वर्ष के दौरान इस उद्यम पर कितनी राशि निवेश करने का प्रस्ताव है?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री जॉर्ज फर्नान्डीज): (क) और (ख) देश की तीनों सेनाओं तथा सैन्य बेड़े का आधुनिकीकरण एक ऐसा कार्य है जिस पर सरकार का लगातार ध्यान रहता है। यद्यपि रक्षा आधुनिकीकरण में निजी क्षेत्र को शामिल करने के लिए कोई औपचारिक योजना नहीं बनाई गई है तथापि सरकार इस राष्ट्रीय प्रयास में निजी क्षेत्र की यथासम्भव भागीदारी के लिए उन्हें प्रोत्साहित करती है।